

ALL SAINTS' ECO-BULLETIN

Issue 1

CLIMATE CHANGE

**PLASTIC
POLLUTION**

**BIODIVERSITY
LOSS**

STOP PRESS:

*Support the CEE Bill
Alliance.*

Find out more @

<https://www.cebill.uk>

Write to our MP

**WHAT CAN I
DO?**

These are the environmental issues facing our planet.

What can we as individuals do about it?

This bulletin is aimed at giving facts & figures to raise awareness and tips & suggestions for ways in which we can all do our bit.

“**Sustainability** means having a healthy planet with a thriving economy and a happy society using resources in a way that respects the needs of the people and the biodiversity of the planet, preserving & protecting it for future generations”

“A 1.5 degree increase in the earth’s temperature will cause a loss of on average 6% of insect, plant & vertebrate life. A 2 degree increase sees these losses increase dramatically to 17% for insects & plants and 8% for vertebrates”

(from How to Save Your Planet by Dr Tars Shine)

The world population is currently 7.7 billion. By 2050 it is predicted to be 9 billion. Wildlife and nature are being increasingly squeezed out. We can all remember things that were common when we were children that we rarely, if ever, see now. For me that is seeing yellow hammers in our small suburban garden. We need to learn to share this world with the rest of God’s creation. Other forms of life have a right to existence just as much as us & furthermore, our very existence and well-being depends on theirs.

Time is fast running out. 1 million species are under threat of extinction. Scientists paint a bleak picture of a planet ravaged by an ever-growing human population whose insatiable consumption is destroying the natural world

The answer is – a lot.

It might seem daunting but we can all make changes, some small and simple, others more complex. Every change makes a difference. Encourage others to follow suit. National & international policies need to change too but it is people that influence these too. Bottom-up and top-gown approaches are both needed.

Some simple changes to start

- Ditch the plastic shampoo and conditioner bottles and use shampoo and conditioner bars.
Consumer tip: some of these can be very firm & difficult to “lather”. Look for one that contains some kind of oil or shea or coconut butter.
- Likewise, ditch the liquid soap dispenser in favour of good old-fashioned soap bars
- Buy loose fruit & veg
- Use loose tea instead of teabags but try to find a brand that does not come in the non-aluminium foil packets that cannot be recycled. PG Tips tea comes in a cardboard box with plastic film just at the top and bottom inside the box.
- If you have to use teabags, go for biodegradable ones (PG Tips again)
- Whilst the electric kettle is the most energy efficient means of boiling the water for your tea (for those who like the figures, 80% of the electricity used is converted to energy to heat the water cf 55% using a microwave & 40% on a gas hob), the majority of people heat more water than they need and many of us do another job whilst the kettle is boiling & then have to re-boil it, maybe more than once.
- Compost your uncooked vegetable food waste. Food waste that goes to landfill produces climate-changing methane gas. Food waste cannot be put in Bradford’s garden waste bins. Many councils operate a food waste collection service, which also includes cooked food waste. If you cannot compost yours why not lobby Bradford Council about starting a food waste collection service.
- Many of us are tidying up the garden and sowing seeds or planting up tubs and containers – use peat free compost. Go to www.climatechangeilkley.org.uk for a list of local suppliers and other actions you can take.

Reduce Re-use Recycle

The next bulletin will list items that can be recycled locally through Terracycle collection boxes. The Ilkley yellow bin appears to be out of action but there are other collection points for a wide variety of plastic waste. Visit teracycle.com if you want to find out now what you can recycle where in and around Ilkley. Encourage others to see what they can recycle in their local area.

Going forward

This is very much an introductory bulletin. We would like others to share thoughts and suggestions to include. Tell us what changes you have made, what you have bought or done (or maybe, not done) which has improved your carbon footprint, what information you would like to see in this bulletin etc. Would you like to be involved in producing it? Someone with desktop publishing skills would be particularly welcome! Mine are very limited!

Please email Kathy kathrynallen82@yahoo.co.uk or Lisa lisacoe1@gmail.com